

PORTAGER

A Natural Place to Move



A Message from Mayor Patricia M. Randall

I have often heard August referred to as, “the dog days of summer.” That conjures up images of panting dogs lying around in the shade. Yet, the term has nothing to do with dogs.

The term is actually an ancient one found in astrology and refers to a particularly bright star known as “Sirius,” translated as “the Dog Star.” This bright star appeared during the summer in the Northern Hemisphere and was believed to scorch the earth, bringing plagues of drought and unrest to people and animals driven mad by the unbearable heat.

Today we know it is not this bright star that heats the earth during summer in the Northern Hemisphere, but the tilt of the earth towards the sun that causes the sun’s rays to strike our part of the world at a more direct angle for the period of time we refer to as summer.

The term, “the dog days,” is also referenced in the Farmers’ Almanac as 40 days from July 3 to August 11, coinciding

with the rising of the Dog Star. So, people for centuries have been looking skyward for explanations about the heat.

Due to longer days and increased temps, southwest Michiganders enjoy a bounty of local things to eat. The plethora of fresh vegetables and fruits is unique to our region. Eating to optimize our health has moved to the forefront; supporting local farmers and producers is now more celebrated than ever. “Farm to table” has become popular in many restaurants, as well as organic produce and antibiotic-free meats.

To meet this demand, local farmer markets have been popping up throughout the country. The City of Portage in conjunction with the People’s Food Co-op and a handful of vendors, opened our first farmer’s market at the original Senior Center in 2016. Sundays were chosen so as not to compete with neighboring markets. For a first-time venture, attendance was strong with 12-15 producers and about 5,000 shoppers in the initial season. Portage Parks & Recreation took over the market in 2018 and relocated it to the parking lot of City Hall. Last year, recorded attendance exploded to 28,880 people. This season we have 19 seasonal vendors, 28 rotating daily vendors, and

five food trucks. Thanks to a music grant, local musicians offer entertainment. As the market continues to grow in popularity, we are looking for a permanent location.

We explored a number of funding options. Today, I am pleased to announce that the City of Portage received a \$1.75 million allotment in the state’s budget appropriations to construct a new Portage Farmers Market. We owe a huge thank you to our State Representative Christine Morse, who worked hard to secure the funding in this year’s state budget. She was supported, of course, by both Senator Sean McCann and State Representative Julie Rogers. As we explore the many conceptual designs and locations for a new market, please join your City Council on Tuesday, August 8 at 5 PM in City Hall and participate in our discussion. Informal surveys have been conducted by those who attend the current market and by the vendors who currently sell at our market.

Eating healthier, canning, and stock piling the fruits of the harvest are all wonderful options. But creating a sense of community is hard to measure and, to me, an endeavor worth taking.

- Patricia M. Randall

Government in Portage

The City of Portage offers many services to its residents including police and fire protection, water and sewer system maintenance, street repairs, election management, park and recreation activities, and more. The city government plays a vital role in the everyday lives of citizens, and it’s essential to understand how it operates and who is responsible for it.

Form of Government

The City of Portage has a Council-Manager system in place, which is all about promoting open communication between citizens and their government. In the Council-Manager form of government, elected officials play a crucial role as policymakers. They work together to develop a vision for the community and create the rules that govern it. It’s also important to have a qualified individual who is fully committed to serving the residents by providing necessary

services. This system ensures that every City Councilmember has an equal say in policy development and administrative oversight. It’s a great way to make sure that neighborhoods and diverse groups can influence policy decisions. With the involvement of the entire elected body, a balanced approach to community decision-making is ensured, which means that all interests get a chance to be expressed and heard.

In this form of government, qualifications and performance are used to select a professional manager, who then selects department heads and other key managers to ensure efficient service delivery. This is all done to maintain critical checks and balances to ensure accountability at City Hall.

The City Council

The Portage City Council consists of the Mayor and six Councilmembers, each member having one equal vote. Elections are held every two years, with three Councilmembers elected to serve four-year terms. The Mayor is elected every two years and serves a two-year term.

The Council represents the entire city and its residents, with their responsibilities including approving and modifying city ordinances, establishing policies, and authorizing the annual city budget. Additionally, the Council sets city tax millage and utility rates and approves contracts on behalf of the city.

The City Manager

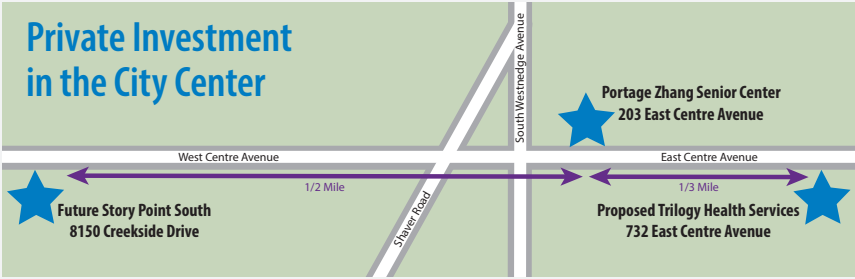
The City Manager is a skilled public administration professional appointed by the Council to manage city staff, projects, and programs. He or she advises the Council, supervises departments and staff, and prepares the annual budget and Capital Improvement Program, which helps the Council prepare for the future. The City Manager also prepares the agenda for each City Council meeting.

Having a strong grasp of how our city government functions and who leads it is essential to living our best lives as citizens. Armed with this knowledge, we can seize opportunities and work together to improve our community and make it a more vibrant, enjoyable place to call home.

City Center Comes Alive

A city’s Master Plan is the policy document outlining the community’s vision for the future (see article to the right). It should be the basis for or the influence of the community’s future, quality of life, land use, economic development, zoning, and other regulatory ordinances. Master plans are often optimistic but then collide with the realities of government process, budgets and politics. The 2014 Master Plan could never have foreseen the leadership of Mayor Patricia Randall and her mission to create a new senior center to enliven the heart of Portage.

Since the Portage Zhang Senior Center opened in May 2022, membership has grown to more than 3,500. Two private development projects have since been announced within a half mile of the new center, creating the potential for 275 units of senior independent and assisted living.



These two developments would represent private investment of over \$25 million and could give Portage residents lots of new options to retire in comfort in a vibrant, exciting town center we all call home. Story Point South (8150 Creekside Drive), with 172 units planned, was approved by the Planning Commission in 2022 and City Council this April. Trilogy Health (732 East Centre Avenue) is the subject of a Public Hearing scheduled for August 8 at 7 PM at City Hall.

Master Plan Update Progress

At a special meeting on June 28, 2023, the Portage Planning Commission reviewed an outline of a vision statement and key recommendations for the city’s Master Plan update that is currently underway. The Master Plan is an important document for municipalities in Michigan as it serves as a guide for future infrastructure, public space and park investments, and land uses.

The City of Portage Master Plan update is about halfway through the planning process. At each stage of development of the updated plan, the city will post information on the project web page and actively encourage continued input from Portage residents, businesses owners, property owners, community organizations, and all stakeholders with an interest in the future of the city. The presentation to the Planning Commission, as well as the memorandum providing the draft outline for the Master Plan, is available online for review and comment on the *Project Documents* tab at ForwardTogether.portagemi.gov.

Work will continue over the next several months on detailed subarea plans for the Crossroads Subarea and the City Centre Subarea. These are sections of the city receiving special attention

during this Master Plan update. More detailed chapters of a draft Master Plan will also be crafted for future review. These chapters will be based on the sections contained in the outline reviewed on June 28 by the Planning Commission. In addition to the city accepting public comments throughout the process, there is an extended 63-day period for public review of the final draft document. After the mandatory review period, a formal public hearing must be held, and comments considered before adoption of the plan. The City of Portage hopes to complete this process in the spring of 2024. The Master Plan was last updated in 2014.

Follow the process by visiting the project website, ForwardTogether.portagemi.gov, and continuing to share more ideas and comments on the **map.social** public engagement mapping tool. Stay tuned with updates through the “Keep Me Updated” tab of the project website and on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter. Sign up to receive email and/or text messages updates at portagemi.gov/list.aspx - subscribe to the *Master Plan - Forward Together* category.



Safely Dispose Medication with Red Med Box

Do you have unused or expired medication? Please do not dispose of it in the trash or flush it down the sink or toilet. Instead, contribute to safeguarding the environment from contaminants and the community from prescription abuse, addiction, and overdoses. You can do this by depositing your medications into the Red Med Box, situated at the Portage Public Safety Headquarters on 7810 Shaver Road. You can access the Red Med Box from Monday to Friday, between 8 AM and 4 PM. The contents of the Red Med Box are incinerated for destruction.

Accepted Items

- » Expired and unused medications
- » Over the counter medications
- » Antibiotics and steroids
- » Cold and flu medication
- » Vitamins and herbal
- supplements
- » Medication samples
- » Pet medications
- » Medicated ointment, lotions, liquid drops
- » Unopened Epi-Pens
- » Liquid medications

Unaccepted Items

- » Needles, lancets, syringes
- » Thermometers
- » IV bags
- » Bloody or infectious waste
- » Hydrogen peroxide, rubbing alcohol, etc.
- » Business waste
- » Empty containers
- » Personal care products
- » Used Epi-Pens
- » Aerosol cans
- » Electronic devices (diabetes testers, etc.)
- » Inhalers

The Red Med Box program is a collaboration between local law enforcement agencies, the Kalamazoo Household Hazardous Waste Center, the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force, and other community partners. If you would like to know more about the program, please call the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Center at 383-8741 or the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force at 388-4200.



The Red Med Box is for use by individuals. Commercial business use is strictly prohibited due to limited available space.

Stay Safe When Buying, Selling, or Trading Goods

In today’s digital age, online marketplaces make it easy to buy, sell, or trade goods, but meeting strangers for an exchange can be nerve-wracking. Luckily, the Portage Department of Public Safety **Safe Exchange Zone** offers a safe and public location for legal exchanges. The Safe Exchange Zone is a well-marked and well-lit area located at the main entrance of the Department of Public Safety Headquarters at 7810 Shaver Road. It is monitored by 24-hour video surveillance and can accommodate two vehicles parked side-by-side. The zone is also a safe and neutral location for child custody exchanges.



While using the Safe Exchange Zone, it’s still important to take safety precautions such as meeting during daylight hours, bringing a friend or family member, and not sharing personal information with the other party.

Please note that the exchange of illegal items, such as drugs, weapons, and alcohol, is strictly prohibited at the Safe Exchange Zone. Portage Department of Public Safety employees cannot serve as official witnesses or provide legal advice. Moreover, they cannot mediate civil disputes that may arise from such transactions. The City of Portage and its employees do not hold any responsibility for the authenticity, legitimacy, or value of the items exchanged. Additionally, all exchanges must be conducted person-to-person. If you are exchanging custody of a child, please ensure that the child is not left unattended at the Safe Exchange Zone while waiting for the other parent/guardian to arrive.

The City of Portage participates in the Kalamazoo County Government Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program. This is a free service provided through the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services. For more information, including drop off location, hours of operation and accepted materials, scan the QR code or visit the website below.



Leftover pool chemicals? We recycle them!



For more information visit our website at: kalcounty.com/hhw



Car, Boat, RV, and Trailer Parking

When searching for a new home, people consider factors like the quality of nearby schools, proximity to work and recreational activities. The appearance of the neighborhood is often a key consideration. Portage has established standards to protect and improve the overall quality of life in our community and neighborhoods.

Parking vehicles – cars, boats, RVs, trailers, etc. – on your lawn can negatively impact the appearance and value of your neighborhood and is one of the most common complaints received by the city. To maintain a high standard of quality in our neighborhoods, there are regulations in place regarding where you can park vehicles.

If you park a car, RV, camper, boat, or similar property in your front yard, it must be parked in an enclosed structure

or on a driveway made of concrete, asphalt, or gravel. Parking is not allowed in the “curb lawn” or in a way that blocks a public sidewalk. Vehicles parked in your rear yard must also be parked in an enclosed structure or an improved surface. However, if you have more than two acres of property outside of a subdivision, you may park your vehicle, trailer, or boat on an unimproved surface at least 40 feet from all property lines. The photos below show examples of parking violations.

If your vehicle is inoperable, it must be stored in an enclosed garage or other structure. Additionally, overnight parking on a public street is allowed from April 15 through November 15, but no vehicle can be parked or stored on a public street for more than 48 hours.

For more information or assistance, please contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477.



CONNECT!



where to turn for help. Regardless of how you like to receive city information, we’ve got you covered!

The **Portager Newsletter** is the first line of communication with Portage citizens. The monthly newsletter is delivered to every Portage mailbox and contains the most detailed information about city services, news, and events. We’ve been told time and time again that Portage residents depend on receiving the Portager every month.

Citizens also tell us that the **City Website** is an important source of information. Visit and bookmark portagemi.gov to view current news and upcoming events. The site is a great source of information about city services, department responsibilities, and ways to contact city staff. View dates for collection programs such as brush, leaves, and recycling. Learn about the city’s snow removal efforts and progress to current construction projects. Several online services are available, including utility and tax bill payments, permit applications, online mapping (GIS mapping), as well as property and tax search services.

The website also contains a feature called **Notify Me** that

automatically notifies registered individuals when items of interest are published on the website. Subscribe for real-time updates about city news, events, and services as they are published. You can receive notifications for several different categories of information. Visit portagemi.gov and click the Notify Me button on the home page. Sign up and select the categories of notifications you wish to receive. Notifications can be sent to you via e-mail, text message, or both.

The City of Portage maintains nine **social media** pages to engage with citizens and relay important information concerning city news, public services, and events. Visit portagemi.gov/537 and follow us!

In large-scale emergencies that impact the safety, property, or welfare of Portage citizens, the city relies on **Portage Alert**, a mass notification system to broadcast important communications and emergency alerts. Publicly available primary residential and business phones are automatically included in the system. To ensure the City of Portage has the most up-to-date and accurate contact information, including cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses, residents can visit portagemi.gov and click on “PortageAlert” to provide complete contact information.

Connect With Us

• Social Media

• Notify Me - Get Notifications

• PortageAlert - Get Emergency Alerts

• Report It! - Report an Issue

• Portager Newsletter

• Podcasts

• Staff Directory

• Employment

Help maintain Portage as *A Natural Place to Move!* Use the **Report an Issue** button on the home page of the city website to report a neighborhood issue or a concern about city services. Residents can report certain maintenance issues or ordinance violations such as potholes, inoperable traffic signals, abandoned vehicles, tall grass and weeds, and more. The information is then submitted to the appropriate city department for review and resolution.

Portage Connect is the official City of Portage Podcast and is available for streaming or download. Get information about city news, events, and services. Find podcast links on our social media channels or visit portagemi.gov. Do you have a topic you'd like us to discuss? Send your podcast ideas to publicinformation@portagemi.gov.

Portage Cable Access TV provides live and rebroadcast coverage of City Council, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings and original programming related to city departments, events, and services. Spectrum subscribers can view programming on channel 995, while AT&T subscribers can tune to channel 99. Live stream and on-demand videos can be viewed at portagemi.gov/205.

When you’re on the go, the **MI.Portage Mobile App** is a convenient portal to many of these connections. Download the app from the Google Play Store or Apple Store.

If you have any questions about connecting with the City of Portage, call the Office of Public Information at 324-9230.

YOUR BACKYARD IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

Portage Parks & Recreation Events, Camps & Classes

1,000 Acres. 20 Parks. One City.

To find out more and register online, visit mypark.portagemi.gov and click the REGISTER NOW! button.

REGISTER NOW!

City Hall Exhibition

Wild Wetlands: The Secret Life of Bogs

Rotating exhibitions that focus on local arts, nature, and history are displayed in the lobby at Portage City Hall throughout the year. These exhibitions are FREE to the public. Discover how wetlands, like fens and bogs, help the City of Portage combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Explore the relationship between wetlands and climate change and find out how you can help protect these natural resources for generations to come.

- » Now - September 5, M-Th: 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM, F: 8 AM - 12 PM
- » Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue)

Geo Mystery Tour

Bug Safari

Set out on a quest this August to see the Portage park system through a bug's point of view. Uncover the secrets of creepy critters and winged beauties. Join the challenge at any time, but all adventures must be completed by the end of August. An Apple or Garmin device is highly recommended. Beginning GPS coordinates and secret instructions will be emailed to registered participants at the start of each month or within a week of registration. For additional information, contact Portage Parks & Recreation at 329-4522.

- » August 1 - 31

Summer Concert Series

Rhythm Society Orchestra

Make memories with your friends and family at our Summer Concert Series with music for all ages.



The Rhythm Society Orchestra is a 15-piece dance band specializing in true vintage swing music. Their sound is heavily influenced by Count Basie and Harry James. Based in Detroit, the Rhythm Society Orchestra plays top venues throughout the Midwest and has been featured on numerous television and radio programs. Bring a chair or blanket with you for lawn seating and leave yourself a little room for getting your groove on! Admission is FREE to the Summer Concert Series, thanks to the series sponsor, Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

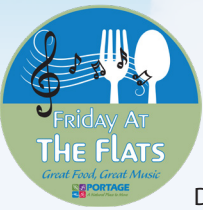
- » Thursday, August 10, 7 PM
- » Overlander Bandshell (7810 Shaver Road)
- » FREE (No registration required)



Beach Bonfire

Take a break from your hectic summer schedule to relax and enjoy the warm summer night air, live music, and a bonfire at Ramona Park Beach. Gather with friends and family for this summer tradition under the stars. S'more making supplies will be provided.

- » Saturday, August 12, 8 PM
- » Ramona Park Beach (8600 South Sprinkle Road)
- » FREE (No registration required)



Friday at the Flats

Join us for dinner at the Celery Flats Pavilion and experience a wide range of food trucks and live, local musicians, Dogpatch Lullaby and False Atlas. Seating is limited, but lawn space is plentiful, so bring a blanket or chair. Connect with your family and friends at Celery Flats through food, live music, and fun.

- » Friday, August 25, 4:30 - 8:30 PM
- » Celery Flats Pavilion (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)



Movies in the Park

Encanto

Wind down with your family in the park, under the stars, for this FREE family entertainment event at the Celery Flats Historical Area. The movie begins at 9 PM or shortly after, depending on the sunset that evening. Bring a blanket or chair for lawn seating. Don't forget to stop by Friday at the Flats before the movie (4:30 - 8:30 PM) for a bite to eat from local food vendors or bring your own snacks for the movie.

- » Friday, August 25, 9 PM
- » Celery Flats Historical Area (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)



School of Fish

Fishing with Rangers

If you love to fish, cast your line with Portage Park Rangers to learn some of the best tips and tricks for fishing. This activity is for everyone, from fish camp graduates to first-time anglers. Enjoy boardwalk and dock fishing at Lakeview Park. Participants must bring their own fishing poles. Live bait will be provided.

- » Sunday, August 27, 2:30 - 3:30 PM
- » Lakeview Park (9345 Portage Road)
- » \$5 per participant (Registration required)

Location change due to construction at Ramona Park.

Stewardship Day

Learn how to be a steward of the land. Join the MDNR & Michigan United Conservation Club to help remove woody invasives and make room for native plants to grow. Lunch will be provided. Bring your work gloves, work gear, and enthusiasm. Closed-toed, waterproof footwear is recommended. Be prepared to work outside for a minimum of three hours. Needed supplies will be provided.

- » Saturday, September 9, 9 AM - 12 PM
- » Gourdneck State Game Area (Angling Road, 2nd Parking Lot)
- » FREE with lunch provided (Registration required)

Kingpins Drumline

Students with special needs are invited to participate in a five-week drumming program tailored for performers of

different abilities. Drumming provides a thrilling outlet for each participant. Students learn to listen, follow suggestions, and how to work together. Students will be guided through each one-hour lesson.

- » September 12, 19, 26 & October 3, 10, 6 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » FREE (Registration required)



Peacock Strut Walk/Run - 10K & 5K

Fun, fitness, and support your community! Proceeds from Peacock Strut help support the Portage Community Center. The 10k & 5k courses of the Peacock Strut wind through the beautiful Portage Creek Bicentennial Park Trail. The top three men and women in both the 5K and 10K will receive a plaque. Medals will be available for the top three finishers in

each 10-year age category. Packet pick-up will be Friday, September 8 from 5 - 7 PM and Saturday, September 9 from 7 - 8 AM at the Grain Elevator in the Celery Flats Historical Area. For more information and to register, visit www.runsignup.com/Race/MI/Portage/PeacockStrut.

- » Saturday, September 9, Check-in begins at 7 AM
- » Celery Flats Historical Area (7335 Garden Lane)
- » \$32 per runner (Registration required)

The Disc Golf Experience

Don't miss your shot! Portage Parks & Recreation brings you the Disc Golf Experience. Learn how to throw a variety of discs, the art of putting, and everything you need to know to get started as a disc golfer.

- » Saturday, September 9, 10 AM - 1 PM
- » West Lake Nature Preserve (9001 South Westnedge Avenue)
- » \$15 per participant (Registration required)

Fall Festival

Fall in love with autumn in Michigan and celebrate the change of the seasons by attending the Fall Festival. Enjoy historical demonstrations, like blacksmithing, glassblowing, candle making, and cooking classes. Ride a horse-drawn carriage, enjoy live animals, and make memories you can take with you at our fall craft station. Celebrate fall on the historical side of Celery Flats with fun activities for the whole family.

- » Sunday, September 17, 10 AM - 2 PM
- » Celery Flats Historical Area (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)



Find a Taste of Summer at the Portage Farmers Market!

Join us at the Portage Farmers Market, where we proudly support local farmers, artisans, and bakers. Our produce is locally grown and freshly picked within 50 miles of the City of Portage, available every Sunday through October 15.

In August, we offer a wide variety of products, including Michigan-grown blueberries, peaches, tomatoes, and corn. Our market also features locally produced meats, cheeses, and baked goods. Discover handmade soaps, candles, and body care

products like lip balm, lotion, and deodorant.

Bring the family and visit our Children's Activity Tent, where we have weekly themes and plenty of coloring pages, chalk, bubbles, and more.

We also provide food assistance options, such as SNAP/EBT coins and Double-Up Food Bucks.

You can find us rain or shine every Sunday from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Portage City Hall parking lot (7900 South Westnedge Avenue).

For more information, please contact us at farmmkt@portagemi.gov or call 329-4522. Follow us on

Facebook @[PortageMarketMI](https://www.facebook.com/PortageMarketMI) and Instagram @[PortageMarket](https://www.instagram.com/PortageMarket) for updates.





AUGUST 2023

PORTAGER

YOU HAVE MORE
FRIENDS
THAN YOU KNOW

Current Events Discussion Group

Facilitator: Karl Hokenmaier

Pause and reflect on the news cycle. Join the discussion on current events both local, national, international, and global. Join the respectful discussion about what's going on in the community, the city, the state, and the country. Discussion topics will be determined by participants. To register, call 329-4555.

- » Mondays, August 7 & 21, 2 - 4 PM
- » FREE (Registration required)

Single Mingle

Sponsored by: Provision Living Oshtemo



Meeting new people isn't always easy. Join fellow 50+ singles looking for companionship, friendship and conversation at the PZSC for a late afternoon of light hor d'oeuvres, cocktails (cash bar), and entertainment in a fun and relaxed social environment. This event is generously sponsored by Provision Living Oshtemo. To register, call 329-4555.

- » Friday, August 11, 4 - 6 PM
- » \$10 per person (Registration required)

Beginning Watercolor

Instructed by: Sarah Nott

Never tried watercolors, or haven't found success at it? Join us as art instructor Sarah Nott, teaches this quick course to

Portage Zhang Senior Center Events, Activities & Classes

Explore More. Have Fun. Live Well.

Find us at 203 East Centre Avenue | mypzsc.portagemi.gov | Questions? Call 329-4555.

Experience a vital, vibrant community offering a wide variety of services and activities that match the needs of active older adults. Membership at the PZSC is open to anyone over the age of 50. Portage residency is not required. All events are held at the Portage Zhang Senior Center unless otherwise noted.

help you get oriented in the world of watercolors. This class is recommended, but not required, to take the August 29 *The Art of Watercolor* course. The cost includes the use of all supplies and instruction. To register, call 329-4555.

- » Tuesday, August 15, 4 - 5:30 PM
- » \$20 members | \$25 non-members (Registration required)

Medication Brown Bag Event

Do you have medication in your cabinet, yet have no idea what it was for, or if it is still any good? Are you on a variety of medications from a different providers and worry whether they are safe to take together? If not monitored, medication interactions can have adverse effects. Bring all your medications and supplements in for review with Ferris State University pharmacists and pharmacy students. To register, call 329-4555.

- » Thursday, August 17, 11 AM - 3 PM
- » FREE and open to the public (Registration required)

The Art of Watercolor

Instructed by: Sarah Nott

Join us as instructor Sarah Nott teaches the art of watercolor. Whether you are brand new to watercolor painting or are already familiar with the basics, this beginner friendly class is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon being creative.

This is a make and take event; participants will create a piece of artwork to take home. Space is limited. To register, call 329-4555.

- » Tuesday, August 29, 4 - 5:30 PM
- » \$20 members | \$25 non-members (Registration required)



Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 16, 2023 for the wildly popular "It's in the Bag" sale hosted by the Friends of the Portage Senior Center. You'll be sure to find a purse (or two!) in your favorite style, size and name brand. The Jewelry Boutique features thousands of sparkling necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and more. **Donations of purses, jewelry, and accessories are being accepted now** and can be delivered to the Portage Zhang Senior Center during normal business hours. For more information or to volunteer for this event, call 329-4555.

7900 South Westnedge Avenue
Portage, Michigan 49002-5160
portagemi.gov | (269) 329-4400

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City Closing Notices

Non-emergency city offices will be closed on the following dates:

Employee Training Day

- » Friday, September 1

Labor Day

- » Monday September 4

Summer Hours

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1

- » Monday - Thursday, 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
- » Friday: 8 AM - 12 PM

Portage City Council

Portage City Council meetings are held twice a month on Tuesdays at 7 PM at Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue) in Council Chambers and are always open to the public.

The City Manager

The City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city. Citizens are encouraged to contact the City Manager with concerns or complaints about city services by visiting reportit.portagemi.gov or by calling Complaint Resolution at 329-4404.

Televised City Meetings

City Council, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings can be viewed live on Spectrum channel 995 and AT&T channel 99. All meetings can be viewed via live streaming at portagemi.gov/205.

AUGUST 2023

3	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
8	7:00 PM	City Council Meeting
14	7:00 PM	Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
17	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting
22	7:00 PM	City Council Meeting

The Portager

The *Portager* is the official publication of the City of Portage, used to inform residents of city services and events, as well as city projects that have significance to Portage citizens. The newsletter is published monthly and delivered to every mailbox in the 49002 and 49024 zip codes.

This month's front and back cover photo features Stuart Manor in the Celery Flats Historical Area.

PORTAGER Editor
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